12-7-11

VALLEY STAR

The independent student newspaper of Valley College

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Bernie Fine and Jerry Sandusky are guilty until proven innocent.

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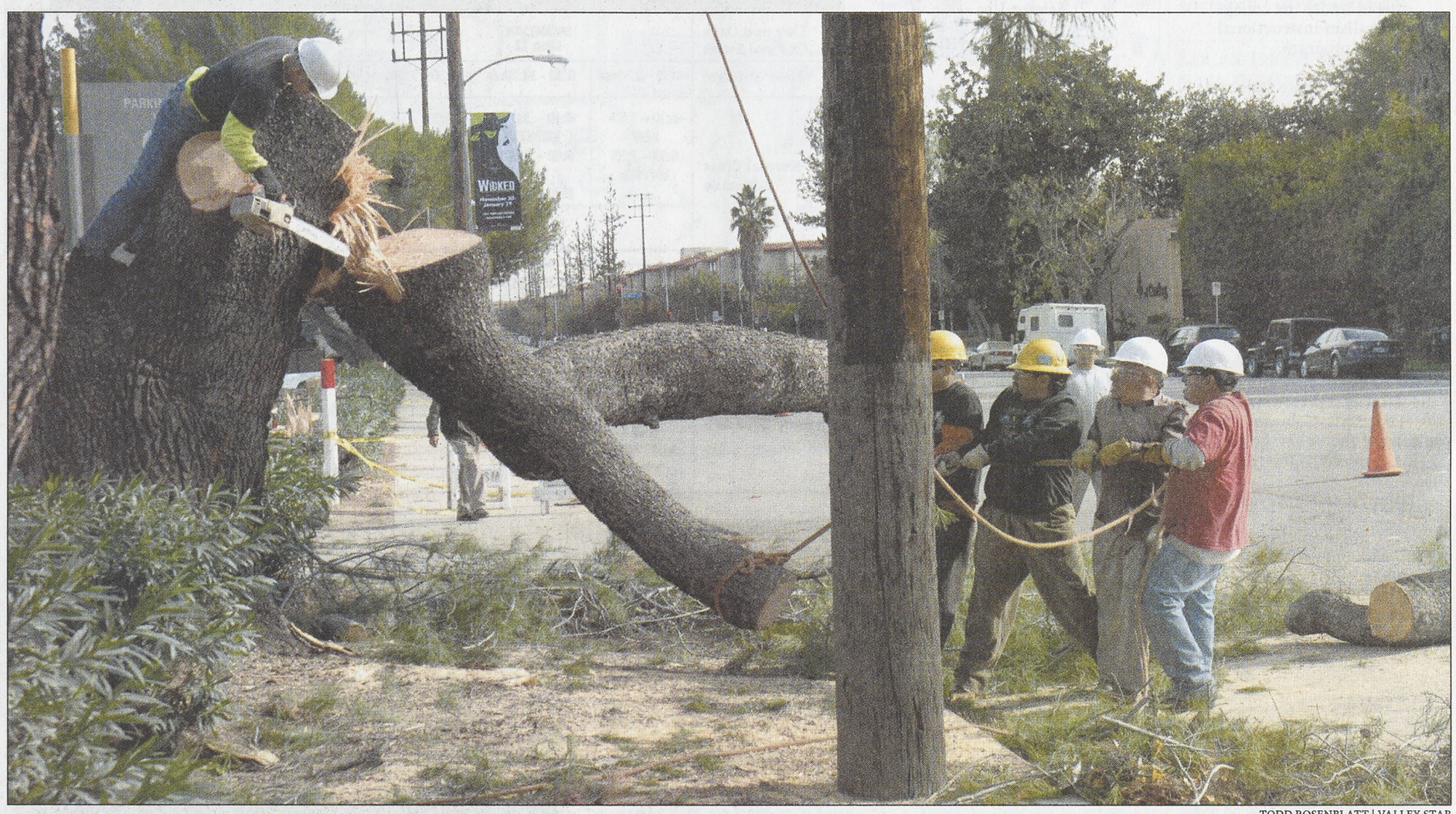
VALLEY BASKETBALL ON THE RISE

AFTER STARTING THE SEASON WITH FOUR STRAIGHT LOSSES, THE MONARCHS WIN TWO STRAIGHT.

SPORTS PAGE 5

www.lavalleystar.com | December 7, 2011 | Vol. 75, Issue 8



TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

TIMBER - Workers from G Coast Construction Inc. take down one of the 45 Aleppo Pine trees along Burbank Boulevard, between Ethel Avenue and Coldwater Canyon.

VALLEY COLLEGE AIMS FOR BIGGER DREAMS

ASU hosts a forum on the DREAM Act to inform students.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

Associated Student Union Commissioner of Public Relations Javiera Infante hosted an informational forum for students Thursday about the California DREAM Act in the Student Services Multipurpose Room.

Since the signing of California bills AB130 and AB131, many undocumented college students, commonly known as AB540 students have been seeking information about the bills and how the Act will benefit them.

Infante has been an outspoken proponent for the DREAM Act, and since Gov. Jerry Brown signed into legislation Oct. 8, she has made it her goal to provide information to students on the bills, the Act and how they affect them.

"I want to educate people that don't know about it especially AB540 students."

-Javiera Infante
ASU Spokesperson

"I want to educate people that don't know about it [the DREAM Act], especially AB540 students," said Infante.

The Act consists of AB130 and AB131. AB130, which was signed into law in July, will allow AB540 students to apply and compete for available scholarships from their respective colleges; it will go into effect Jan. 1. AB131, signed Oct. 8, is the most substantial part of the bill; it will allow undocumented students to apply for in-state financial aid by Jan. 1, 2013.

Laura Garcia, an architect major and an AB540 student, will be applying for scholarships as soon as she can.

"I'm paying for my classes and also trying to support myself," said Garcia. "It's difficult to take many classes because I have to pay for them."

Valley Financial Aid Manager Vernon Bridges was also present at the forum to educate students on how the DREAM Act will affect Valley students.

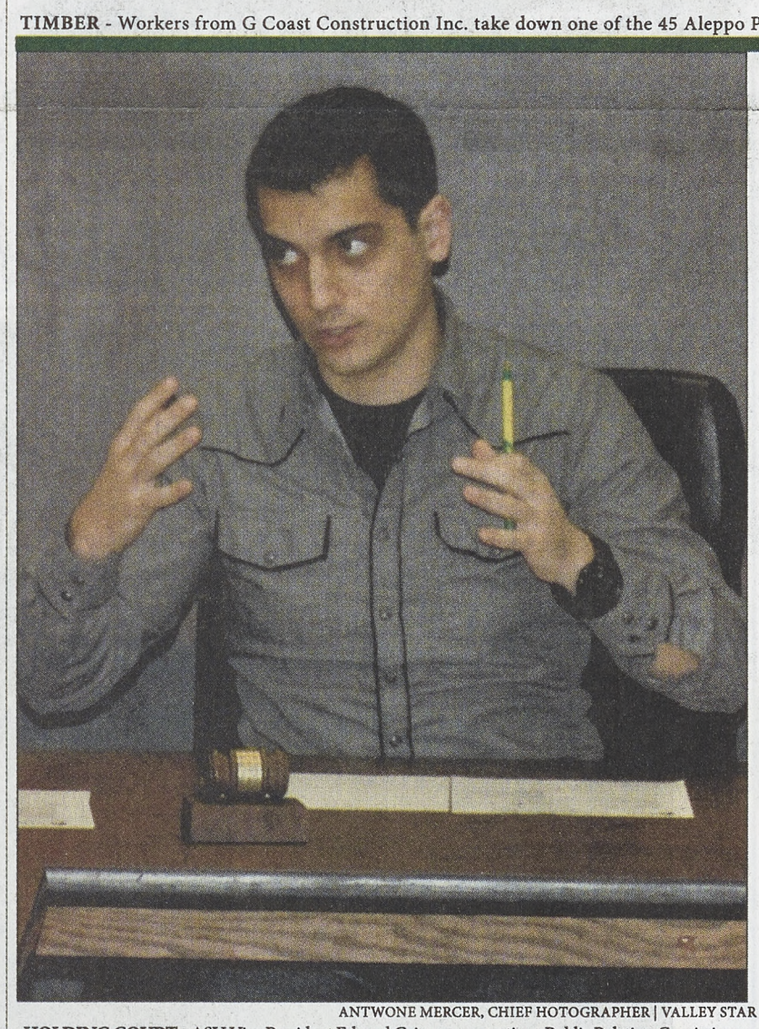
"As of today, we don't have any set policy because it's so brand new," said Bridges.

He advises students to apply for financial aid once AB131 goes into effect.

"When the day comes, start applying," he said. "You should do it as soon as possible because there are going to be a lot of people who will be interested in doing this."

Infante also advised other AB540 students who may not know about the California DREAM Act to ask if they have any questions.

"Get informed, don't be afraid," said Infante. "Ask. That's all you need to do."



ANTWONE MERCER, CHIEF HOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

HOLDING COURT - ASU Vice President Eduard Grigoryan questions Public Relation Comissioner Javiera Infante about the pricing of the printing for the new ASU monthly magazine.

ASU MEETS BEFORE THE NEW YEAR STARTS

The Associated Student Union met to discuss the Student Success Task Force-drafted recommendations along with updates from committee members.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

The Associated Student Union met for its last meeting for the fall semester Tuesday to discuss the plans for committees and also what the Student Success Task Force recommendations were.

With Attorney General Brandon Batham setting up a Facebook event for the meeting and spreading the word, a total of six students along with the acting manager of the LAVC Bookstore, Mary John, attended the meeting.

During the public forum of the meeting, John voiced her ideas of working with the ASU to create new merchandise for the student body along with setting up meetings of ways to advertise the bookstore and participate in ASU-sponsored events.

"Everyone is separate now; it's students and faculty now," explained John. "The faculty and staff should come together to work with the students."

ASU Campus/Environmental Affairs Commissioner Lester Salvador spoke about the Book Exchange committee. He has been looking into a new website, postyourbooks.com, that he deemed a "Craigslist version of book exchange." If approved, students could list their books online and figure out where to meet and exchange the books.

Following discussion of the Book Exchange Committee, Public Relations Commissioner Javeria Infante explained what was going on with the ASU monthly magazine.

"The magazine was supposed be out [Monday]," said Infante.

Infante spoke that most likely the cost of the monthly magazine would go up due the pages in the magazine doubling from six pages back-to-back to 12 pages back-to-back.

In a past meeting, ASU had approved $1,359 for the monthly magazine. The monthly magazine is by ASU members and consists of campus news, reports of officers and commissioners and club information.

Because of the increase in the page amount, Infante raised concern that the money that was budgeted could double. ASU slotted the almost $1,400 for 500 copies of a six-page magazine. If more than $2,000, ASU must find quotes, a district ruling, from other sources before getting approval to use the money.

Vice President Eduard Girgoryan, who ran the meeting due to ASU President Norvan Berkezyan who was excused, Public Relations Commissioner Javiera Infante and Fine Arts Commissioner Ashley Miller are finding information.

"It's being proactive," chimed in Attorney General Batham about finding prices on the printing quotes.

See *ASU*, Page 2

VALLEY SERVICES CHANGE OFFICE HOURS

Several offices at Valley College are changing hours due to budget cuts.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
STAFF WRITER

Due to further cuts in Valley College's budget, several offices on campus will temporarily change hours of operation.

"The changing hours is because of the budget cuts, but we're trying to see how we can best meet the needs of the students," acting Vice President of Student Services Florentino Manzano said. "When our financial situation was better, we were able to have more workers on hand."

Despite the cuts, the administration is still looking to best serve the students by adding workers during the peak hours of operation.

"Even though the hours are different, what we are doing is trying to put two workers at an office, so if one of them is sick or otherwise unavailable, they could alternate with the other worker," Manzano said.

According to Manzano, the Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, International Students and Veteran's offices will now be closed from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. These offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Since they cannot make it convenient for absolutely every student on the Valley campus, the officials should try their best to make the new hours as smooth as possible to help out the students as much as they can with what they have available," business major Aaron Smith said.

See *HOURS*, Page 2

BOOKSTORE UPS ANTE ON BUY BACKS

The Valley College buyback program gives better incentives for students to sell back their used textbooks.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
STAFF WRITER

Beginning Dec. 8, Valley College will start its annual book buyback program, allowing students to receive a percentage back on books they purchased for the fall semester.

According to Mary John, the acting manager at the LAVC Bookstore, past semesters haven't had the best turnouts. However, more students are taking advantage of the program since further incentives have been put in place since last fall.

"In previous semesters, the buyback was bad," John said. "But the one we did for the spring of this year was very good. We had a lot of incentives going on to generate buyback sales. We're not selective as to where the books students are selling were originally bought."

Some students, like anthropology major Jechael Gardner, avoid purchasing textbooks on campus. Many students purchase online or take advantage of book rental programs in order to cut costs.

"I don't even buy books from the school. I just buy them online because they're cheaper, or I can rent them online, too," Gardner said.

There are cases where books may not be bought back because instructors have gone to a more updated or different version of a textbook for a course.

"The only drawback I noticed was that some students were not able to sell their books back because either the book was not going to be used for the next semester, or they came after we met the number of books that we were supposed to buy back for that particular title or maybe they came at a time when the buyback was over," John said.

According to John, students can bring eligible books back to earn money regardless of where they originally purchased them.

"As long as it is on the buyback list of books we can buy, you can sell it here, and we will give you half of what you paid for it," John said. "The only time you may get less is if the book is damaged or it's missing some components we're looking for, such as a disc. Other than that, we will buy it back from you regardless of where you first purchased it."

Do you have a news tip? Send us your news tip to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook and Twitter.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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Final Examination Schedule

Monday, Dec 12 to Sunday, Dec 18

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, DEC 11.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on Dec 16.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on Dec 17.

To use the schedule below:
- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated M T W Th F for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY Dec 12			TUESDAY Dec 13		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY Dec 14			THURSDAY Dec 15		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Dec 12	4 – 6pm	M	M Dec 12	4 – 6pm	M	M Dec 12	7 – 9pm
T	T Dec 13	4 – 6pm	T	T Dec 13	4 – 6pm	T	T Dec 13	7 – 9pm
W	W Dec 14	4 – 6pm	W	W Dec 14	4 – 6pm	W	W Dec 14	7 – 9pm
Th	Th Dec 15	4 – 6pm	Th	Th Dec 15	4 – 6pm	Th	Th Dec 15	7 – 9pm
MW	M Dec 12	4 – 6pm	MW	W Dec 14	4 – 6pm	MW	M Dec 12	7 – 9pm
TTh	T Dec 13	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th Dec 15	4 – 6pm	TTh	T Dec 13	7 – 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

ASU

Continued from page 1

No word when the hard copy of the magazine will be out. However, ASU does have an electronic copy of the current issue, which was schedule to be out to the student body Monday.

For new business of the meeting, Attorney General Batham uplifted the drafted recommendations from the Student Success Task Force. Batham, who is also the Region 7 treasurer for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, will voice the concerns from the students who attended the meeting along with input from the Executive Council.

Lowering the test rates for high school testing was also a topic of discussion.

"If you set the bar low, you are going to create havoc," explained Tau Alpha Epsilon President Shawn Besharaty. "If anything, you need to set the bar higher. The cream will rise. If you give everyone a higher bar, they will accept that level."

To see more information of the of draft recommendations visit http://www.facebook.com/events/200118676737337/.

Hours

Continued from page 1

With an ongoing budget crisis in California, community colleges are just one component of the state services that will see reduced funds. Through effective decision-making, those in charge at Valley are trying to help as many people as possible with all the resources available to them.

"During those hours between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., we have most of the students in class," Manzano said. "That is the time where we have the ability to process the papers and requests already received, so [we can] make room for the other hours that will be open."

A complete list of the changes in office hours can be found at the Student Services office located on the second floor of the Student Services Annex, directly above the Financial Aid office.

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Opinion

"CAIN TRAIN" LASTS ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES

Herman Cain is just the latest of missteps for the Republican Party.

JOSHUA P. SPENCE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The most poignant moment in George Clooney's "The Ides of March" is when Ryan Gosling's character, Stephen Meyers, admonishes Clooney's Mike Morris by stating that he should know the rules: "You can fight two wars at the same time, you can bankrupt the country, but you cannot sleep with the interns." The rule seems simple enough in order to run one of the most powerful countries in the world, yet for all the Republican Party ballyhooing, they can't seem to find anyone who can keep their pants on.

When you think of pants down, however, you can't help but think of Herman Cain. Although he might never say it publicly, one would think that's the thought he might want you to have as well. Well, that and his "9-9-9" plan, which also moonlights as the price for one of his Godfather pizzas. Let's be honest, the "Cain Train" has been a double entendre for quite a while, and it only was a matter of time before it derailed amid a flurry of controversy.

Cain and the other Republican Party nominees are the epitome of Don King's "Only in America" hustler, cash-grab rhetoric. It works because if you say it enough times, you begin to believe in it. Say it aloud, "Only in America ... Only in America ... Only in America ... Cain for president ... There was a third one ... Sexual harassment is OK ..." Wait, what? Now who's caught with their pants down? That sums up a myriad campaign slogan right there.

In his mind, Cain's great media jaunt to expand his brand was something that The Donald could only dream of. In the minds and zeitgeist of the American public, Cain and the Republican Party mirror the public perfectly because we are entertaining silly, pathetic idioms that may have applied in the last millennium while ignoring today's problems.

Instead of getting ulcers and dealing with the issues that are lowering the country's stock in the world, we'd rather have milk toast (Mitt Romney) to cure our tummy ache. Instead of having rational plans, we'd rather shout platitudes and flailing dogmas about an America that has passed us by (Cain and Michelle Bachmann). Instead of thinking for ourselves, we want to be told what to think (Rick Perry). Instead of being innovative, we'd rather rest on laurels (Newt Gingrich).

Jon Stewart was absolutely right when he said that he was going to miss Cain if only for the comedic fodder he provides for his "Daily Show." Truly, there was no conceivable way that a man with not one but four accusations of sexual harassment against him can't find "Ubeki-beki-beki-beki-stan-stan" on a map, or quotes Pokémon could be the leader of the free world.

This is where America is today. People complain that American politics is limited to a two-party system, but at this rate it appears we only need one. The sooner we stop entertaining the Cains of the world and get back to what's important, the jobs we'll have will be of the employed persuasion, not the hand or blow variety that we've become too comfortable with.

TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT
BY EDUARDO ALVAREZ | VALLEY STAR

THE 99 PERCENT HAS FADED IN THIS CITY

Outside City Hall, the eviction of Occupy L.A. sends protesters looking for justice elsewhere. Regardless, their fighting could be in vain.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

Though Occupy L.A. protestors continue to fight for a righteous cause of sticking it to the 1 percent, the so-called 99 percent are not making a difference in the current economical struggle.

Last week's eviction from City Hall Park shows that even though Occupy L.A. protesters are working for a significant goal, their fight of representing the "99 percent" is not being taken seriously. Protesters are not changing the country's economic crisis – unemployment rates have not lowered, tax rates have not been cut and university fees are not decreasing. Still, the rich enjoy 1 percent of the country's economy.

It is a sad but true reality that politicians and the 1 percent of the population are the only people who have the power to improve the country. The fact that politicians had the power to remove hundreds of protesters from City Hall Park proves the true power lies with the 1 percent.

Thousands have joined the Occupy protest because they are personally affected by the economic downfall and feel that it's inequitable that the richest individuals are the only ones who can live comfortably in the United States.

Joshua Wright, a protestor and U.S. Army veteran, told the L.A Times, "I am here because I did two tours in Iraq and I saw a lot of people die. Why? Why did they die? The answer is, they died for the corporate America, so it's time to bring a change."

Although protesters were evicted from City Hall Park Nov. 29, Occupy L.A. refused to give up the fight for financial equality.

Hours after the eviction, protestors who have decided to keep representing the 99 percent placed themselves on the steps of City Hall, some have situated themselves at Pershing Square in Downtown Los Angeles and others have joined students from the Universities of California in the struggle to lower fees.

A day after the eviction, Jillian Russom, chair of United Teachers L.A., said in the Occupy L.A. press conference, "We represent the many ways that this movement is multiplying in the fight for economic justice," attributing the New York slogan, "Evict us, we multiply."

Rolling Stone writer Matt Taibbi argues that current society is growing sick of having to deal with the same problems and at the same time is forced to witness the lifestyle of the rich while seeing their own lives go down hill.

"We see 10 million commercials a day, and every day is the same life-killing chase for money, money and more money; the only thing that changes from minute to minute is that every tick of the clock brings with it another space-age vendor dreaming up some new way to try to sell you something or reach into your pocket," wrote Taibbi.

Until politicians and this 1 percent listen to their consciences and take action, protesters can occupy anything they want, but it will be in vain.

REPOSTING COULD LEAD TO JAIL TIME

A possible piece of legislation could change the social media sites that many of us know today.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

Through the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) or Protect IP, which is considered legislation for the U.S. Congress, the Internet that Americans know today could drastically change.

According to a Huffington Post article by Dean Baker, the act would not only affect sites that many know such as Google and Facebook, but also any website that gives people the option to post or include links to other sites.

With this act, that hilarious video of a cat playing a piano or an interesting blog post could put Internet users at risk because the owner of an uploaded video or a blogger could claim copyright infringement on the material to the Justice Department.

The fact that the act could do such a thing as this is an accident waiting to happen. Because Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr users constantly share websites and links, there is no possible way that these social media sites could maintain every link that is posted on a profile or blog. Get ready for more terms of agreement.

The legislation was introduced last month by the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith and was originally focused on shutting down foreign sites that posted intellectual property shaped by U.S. firms, according to a Washington Post article.

> **"Fundamentally, this is about jobs."**
>
> -Michael O'Leary
> Motion Picture Association of America

The biggest argument for this legislation is to stop piracy. Piracy lobbyists such as the Motion Picture Association of America, media firms and even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are backing up this legislation.

"Fundamentally, this is about jobs," Michael O'Leary from the Motion Picture Association of America said on a hearing regarding SOPA. But it's not. As always, it's about the money.

According to the Washington Post, the Chamber of Commerce estimates that Hollywood studios, record labels and publishing houses could lose $135 billion in revenue each year from piracy and counterfeiting.

Baker explains in his article, "The Stop Online Piracy Act: Class War in Cyberspace," that the higher costs that SOPA will enforce on consumers both directly and indirectly is by raising costs to the middle man, which is money out of their pockets. The additional money that will be collected by the entertainment industry is money that will not be spent in local stores or restaurants. Again, it's all about the money.

However, some of the money that the entertainment industry will receive will go back to the writers, musicians and others, but only a small amount according to Baker.

It's kind of funny because if we would have people in Congress who didn't care about their 15 minutes of fame or how much money they can get their hands on, maybe those who are in the creative industry and those who are a part of the technology world would come up with an alternative without having to censor the Internet.

But the underlying issue with SOPA passing in Congress is that the government can order Internet providers and ban any site for users' violating posts, using the same methods that China or Iran use with blacklisting certain sites.

With the passing of this Act, be careful YouTube users who might want to do a cover of a Top 40 song, people who reblog on Tumblr or retweet through Twitter; it could become a possible felony with a potential five-year sentence.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

The accusations of child molestation against Jerry Sandusky and Bernie Fine should question our society's vulnerability.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

It took place in the Penn State showers and at his house. It consumed and has damaged the lives of at least eight young boys over a 15-year period. The "it" that former Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky has been accused of, however, should have been expected.

Unfortunately, child molestation, a description of an act that is so malicious and terrifying that it induces thoughts of horror and disgust to any "normal" person's brain, should not be shocking when uncovered ... especially when an authoritative and powerful male figure is the one being accused.

Approaching Sandusky's trial next week, another accuser has come forth, but not against Sandusky.

Zach Tomaselli, 23, has recently accused former Syracuse University assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine of molestation. Tomaselli, who says that he was first molested in a hotel room in 2002, is the third to accuse Fine and has also harbored a secret of his own, which he revealed in conjunction with his allegations. Tomaselli admitted Monday that he had been sexually abusing a 13- or 14-year-old boy in Maine when he was working as a counselor at a camp the boy was attending.

"The only thing that transpired was the same stuff that happened to me," Tomaselli said. "This kid has been through a lot because of the way I controlled him and abused him."

The "same things" that Tomaselli was referencing and accuses Fine of include: fondling, showing him pornography and watching him as he showered naked. Yes, the very "same things" Tomaselli had endured and been a victim of, he inflicted on another child when put into a position of power.

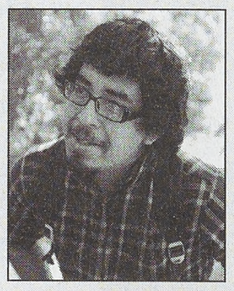
Though a very mild position of power, a counselor at a camp is still a position of power. Humans thrive on authority, they thrive on control and relish in dictating to those around them. Granted, Sandusky, Fine and Tomaselli all share deep-rooted mental issues and all require psychiatric help, but when are we as a society going to begin looking for the warning signs? When are we going to begin putting up safeguards and begin doubting before trusting a powerful male figure, who may or may not have deep-seeded mental issues, with young children?

Innocent before proven guilty is the basis and structure for a judicial system that will try these three men. But maybe withholding the benefit of the doubt and researching those who interact with our children would prevent these heinous acts that are irreversible and ever-damaging to a young child, whether or not the accuser is proven guilty. Maybe as humans, we should start thinking guilty before proven innocent.

VALLEY VIEW | *DO YOU THINK U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD CENSOR THE INTERNET?*

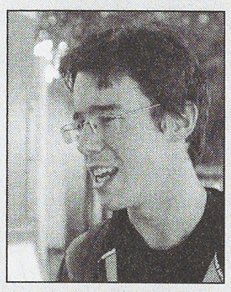
"No because it invades our freedom of speech. "

-CHRISTIAN PANAMENO
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"I'm neutral about it. I don't really care if they censor it or not."

-MIGUEL DELASARO
FIRE TECH



"No because of free speech. Congress is doing dreadful this year and have been for the last 10 years. They suck."

-SHAWN KRANITC
JOURNALISM

"No I don't think so because if they do then the whole Internet system is gonna go."

-ERENDIRA CISNEROS
TEACHING

"I don't think so because it's our way to show our freedom of speech and is a way to express ourselves."

-MAHREM AROUTUNIAN
ARCHITECTURE

COMPILED BY SANDRA SAY AND RICHARD RAZAVI | VALLEY STAR

THEATER REVIEW

CHRISTMAS BECOMES RECKLESS

The Valley College Theatre Arts Department has kicked off this holiday season with a topsy-turvy performance of "Reckless."

KATE KRANTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

MOTHER OR YOUR WIFE - Announcer (Brandon Batham) and Host (Will Byrne) play a part in Rachel (Anna Carlise) and Llyod's (Mookie Johnson) winning money to help pay off Llyod's debt.

"I'll be home for Christmas," sang a little angel, "if only in my dreams."

With Bing Crosby's peaceful lyric lingering in every ear, blue and orange lights went up on "Reckless" at the Horseshoe Theater last week.

It's the holiday season, all right, and in more ways than one. Director Christopher Coddington and the Valley College Theatre Arts department have given audience members an outstanding performance of Craig Lucas' comically dark Christmas fable.

Set in 1980s America, Rachel Fitzsimons (Anna Carlise) is almost euphoric on Christmas Eve, babbling to her unresponsive husband Tom (Jeffrey Boulton), under the covers as their two young boys sleep soundly awaiting Santa's arrival.

Like a light switch, Rachel's life is turned upside-down when Tom regretfully confesses he has taken out a contract on her life.

Within seconds, Rachel leaps out a window, agrees to a ride from Lloyd Bophtelophti (Mookie Johnson) and is zipping down a freeway, leaving everything but her bathrobe and slippers behind.

This is only the beginning of a bizarre journey that may or may not be a dream.

"I always wanted to do something reckless, you know," said Rachel. "Run away in the middle of the night in your slip and your slippers with some strange man who would ruin your reputation and disappoint your parents terribly and disappoint your friends and just make you really happy."

As if induced by a similar state of Rachel's dreamy disorientation, it felt like audience members were tumbling through existence in an everlasting free fall.

Patrons were seated "in the round" bordering the dead center of the action as angelic lights, illustrated by Josh Holt and assisted by Kiley Eberhardt, shined on the performers.

The set, intimately designed by Carlo Maghirang and assisted by Sophia Portier, created a peculiar winter wonderland, referenced Rachel as a "white monster."

Unopened windows hung solitarily while shadows of navy blue trees and milky snow made up the background.

Simple props included glasses of champagne, toy guns and two white chairs and stools, which were moved accordingly by actors dressed in beggars clothing on an off-white floor. A transparent door was placed in the downstage left-hand corner. But where did it lead? That was the mind-boggling question.

Sound design was orchestrated by Stephanie Pressman and operated by Michael Salisbury. Classic holiday songs such as "White Christmas" were used as transitions. Other sound effects included a window shatter and the booming voice of a news anchor.

The main stars at the tip of the Christmas tree were the performers.

Carlise and Johnson displayed a divine chemistry, and their relationship could have been mistaken for a quarreling yet loving couple.

The most dynamic character was Coltide Delavennat, who through the use of vocals, sculpted her accent from Southern to French.

The final scene between Rachel and her grown-up son Tom Jr., also played by Boulton, was the most poignant, yet there was not a single scene without laughter.

"Reckless" possesses a purposely loony, coincidence-laden plot and a bright comic surface. At one minute, you're laughing, and the next, in tears. But hey, it's a wonderful life.

FOOD REVIEW

STONE OVEN OFFERS UP A FRESH, HEALTHY OPTION

Watch out, to-go Chinese and fast food. There is a new sandwich and salad choice for shoppers.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

For those looking for a fresh alternative at the Westfield Fashion Square mall food court in Sherman Oaks, Stone Oven is the perfect place.

Located on the second level of the mall, this eatery provides sandwiches served on freshly baked foccacia bread and salads big enough for two.

Stone Oven offers four side dishes to go along with a variety of sandwiches. The potato salad is just decent. Celery in the potato salad gives a crunch to the picnic plate, but the mayonnaise is a bit too much along with the dill. One should stick to the garden salad or the caesar salad for the side dishes, instead of the pasta salad or potato salad. The croutons are homemade and are just crispy enough making one feel like they are not biting into rocks, which is usually the case in to-go salads.

The BBQ sandwich will please any born-and-raised barbecue lover. There are two options for the BBQ sandwiches: chicken and beef. The chipotle mayonnaise, avocados and cheddar cheese help pull out the flavors of the BBQ. The onion strings and bacon on the BBQ sandwiches give them the much-needed chomp that it needs on top of the fresh baked foccacia bread.

The spicy chicken sandwich is a favorite on the menu. The spicy chicken breast and the chipotle mayonnaise, a staple at Stone Oven, does have somewhat of a kick with the chicken, but the creaminess of the avocado, the corn and black bean salsa and Provolone cheese cools it off.

Besides ordering the pre-made sandwiches, there is also an option to make your own. Served on foccacia bread, the choices start with several sauces to choose from, the option of turkey, roast beef, ham, pastrami or chicken breast with lettuce and tomato included.

The goat cheese chicken salad makes even those who don't like the sour cheese think about trying it again. Paired with mixed greens, bacon, red onions, avocados and roasted cashews, get ready for a salad that tastebuds just can't get enough of. The honey balsamic vinaigrette, pairs nicely with the salad. Also, the southwest chicken caesar salad is a go-to option as well for those who want to stray away from the classic caesar salad.

Stone Oven is located on the second floor of the Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks, 14006 Riverside Drive. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RICHARD RAZAVI | VALLEY STAR

VOTING FOR THE BEST - The goat cheese chicken salad from Stone Oven is topped with avocado and freshly baked foccacia bread. The eatery also features a variety of different sandwiches.

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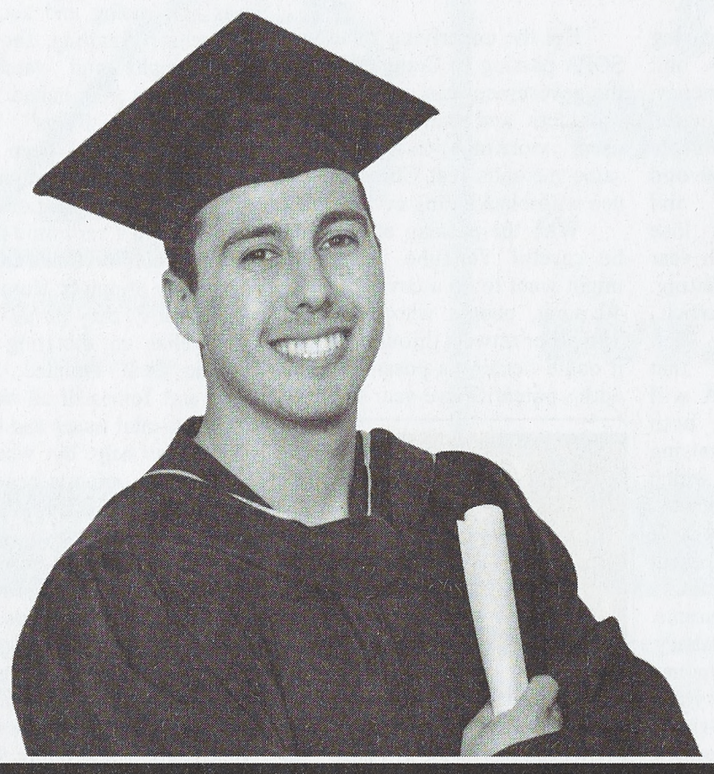

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MONARCHS COLLECT FIRST TWO WINS IN OVERTIME

After a rocky start to the season, the Monarchs are beginning an upward trend.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF WRITER

After starting the season 0-4, the Valley College basketball team found a way to defeat Ventura College and L.A. Trade Tech College in two close games, one of which resulted in four over times.

"Our guys played well tonight," said Monarchs' Assistant Coach Brian White after the game against Ventura Wednesday. "They put fourth a lot of effort; all our loses have been by 5-7 points, and tonight we took a step in the direction that we're looking to be in as a program and as a team."

A 44-point combined scoring threat by small forward Javion Garner, shooting guard Marcus Johnson and shooting guard Margarito Pelayo led the Monarchs in scoring and played key roles in the Monarchs' first victory of the season last Wednesday against Ventura.

In the first half against L.A. Trade Tech, Saturday, Valley lost starting forward Domanique Cotton after taking a finger to the eye. Injuries and fouls knocked out four Monarch starters that combined for approximately 60 points in regulation.

Trailing late in the second half, the Monarchs rallied with two steals and a three-pointer by Marcus Johnson to send the game into overtime. In the first and second overtime, the game remained close, but in the third, the Monarchs clinched a victory after a missed three-pointer from L.A. Trade Tech guard Eric Mitchell.

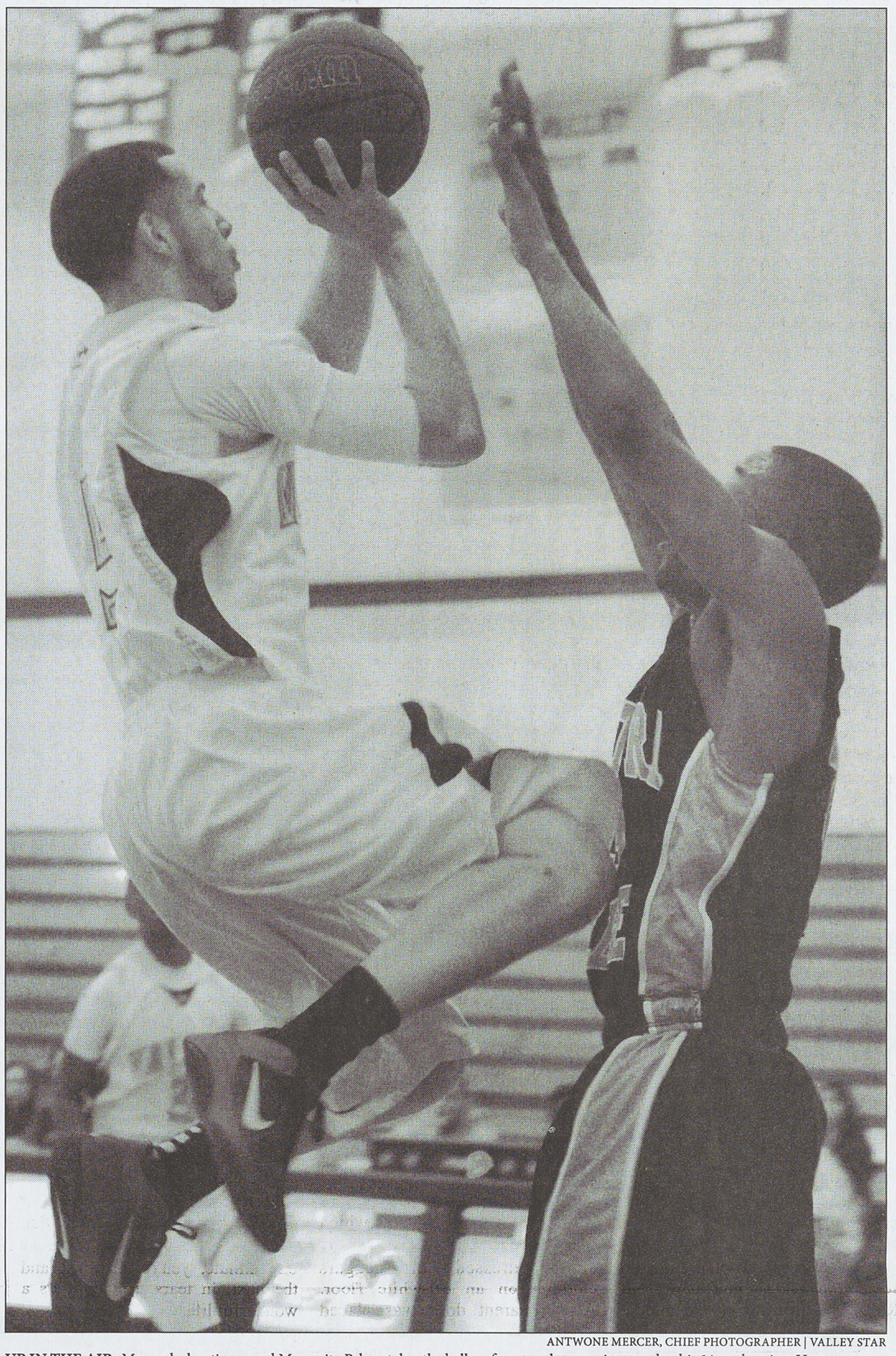
"Our team chemistry is getting better, and we are starting to play together as a unit, not to mention we were tired of losing," said Valley forward Daryl Singontinko. Singontinko helped put the game out of reach Saturday against L.A. Trade Tech, with two critical free throws that helped seal the game in the fourth overtime.

"This was a great win for us," said Monarchs' Coach Virgil Watson. "With four of our starting scorers out, our bench did a great job in helping us down the stretch." Watson also noted, "Each week we're getting better and are trying to build a team that can compete for league championship."

The Monarchs will compete this weekend at the Santa Barbara College City Tournament.

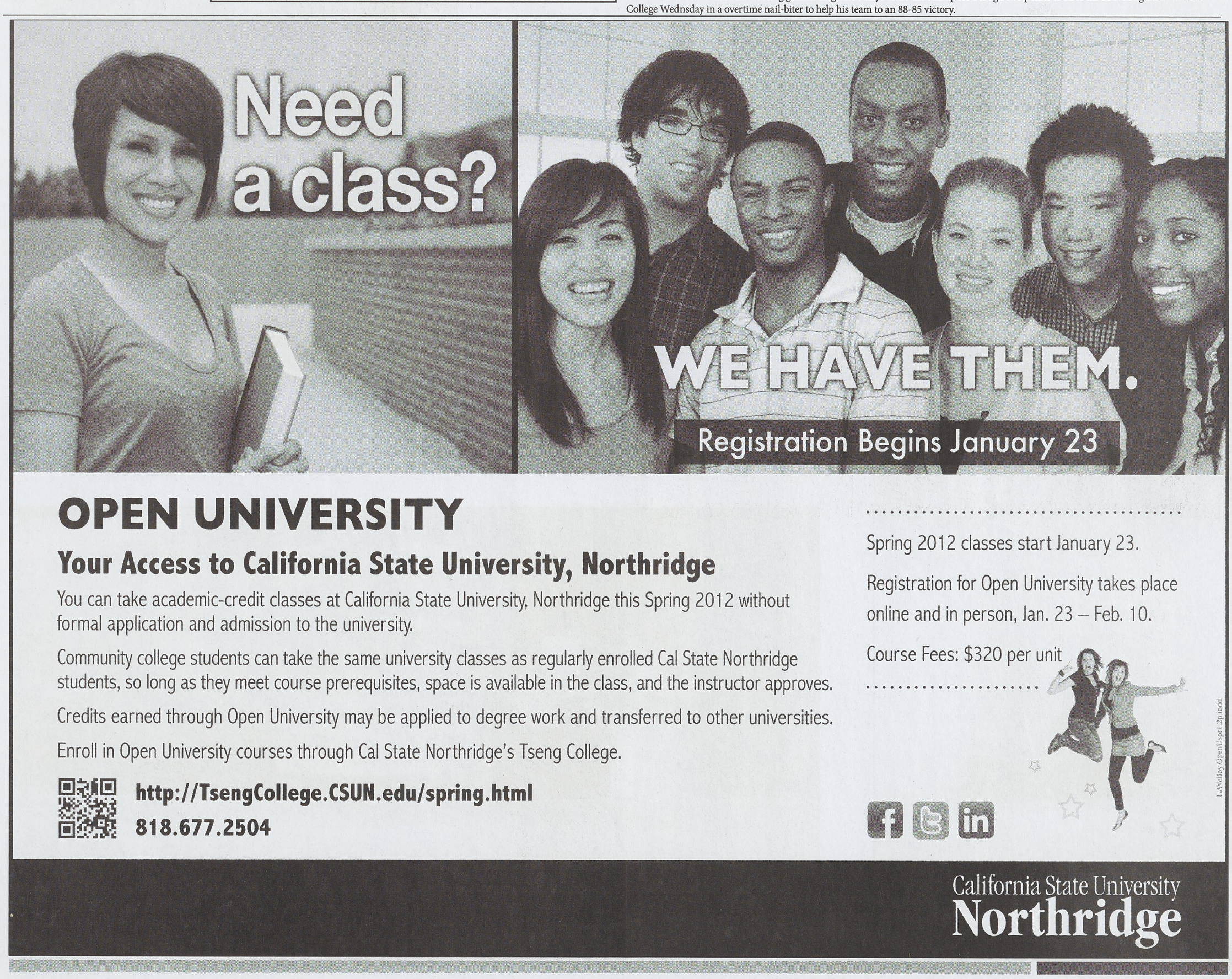
A LOOK AT THE FIRST SIX GAMES

DATE:	OPPONENT:	RESULT:
NOV. 10-12	SAN DIEGO CITY	L 87-80
NOV. 10-12	SAN DIEGO CITY	L 84-79
NOV.17	MOORPARK COLLEGE	L 80-74
NOV. 19	ANTELOPE VALLEY	L 89-82
NOV. 30	VENTURA COLLEGE	W 88-85 OT
DEC. 3	L.A TRADE TECH	W 114-113 OT (4)



ANTWONE MERCER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

UP IN THE AIR- Monarch shooting guard Margarito Pelayo takes the ball up for a tough two points to ad to his 14 total against Ventura College Wednsday in a overtime nail-biter to help his team to an 88-85 victory.



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JORGE PEREZ | VALLEY STAR

SPARKING MORALE - Occupy L.A. protesters stare at the fireworks display across L.A. City Hall Tuesday night, Nov. 29, when LAPD was getting ready to raid the L.A. Occupy camp.

TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

PEACEFUL PROTEST - Protesters and LAPD officers come together on the streets surrounding Los Angeles City Hall during the Occupy L.A. protest. There were few arrests leading up to the eviction of the protesters.

OCCUPY L.A.

Text By

TODD ROSENBLATT
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Photos By

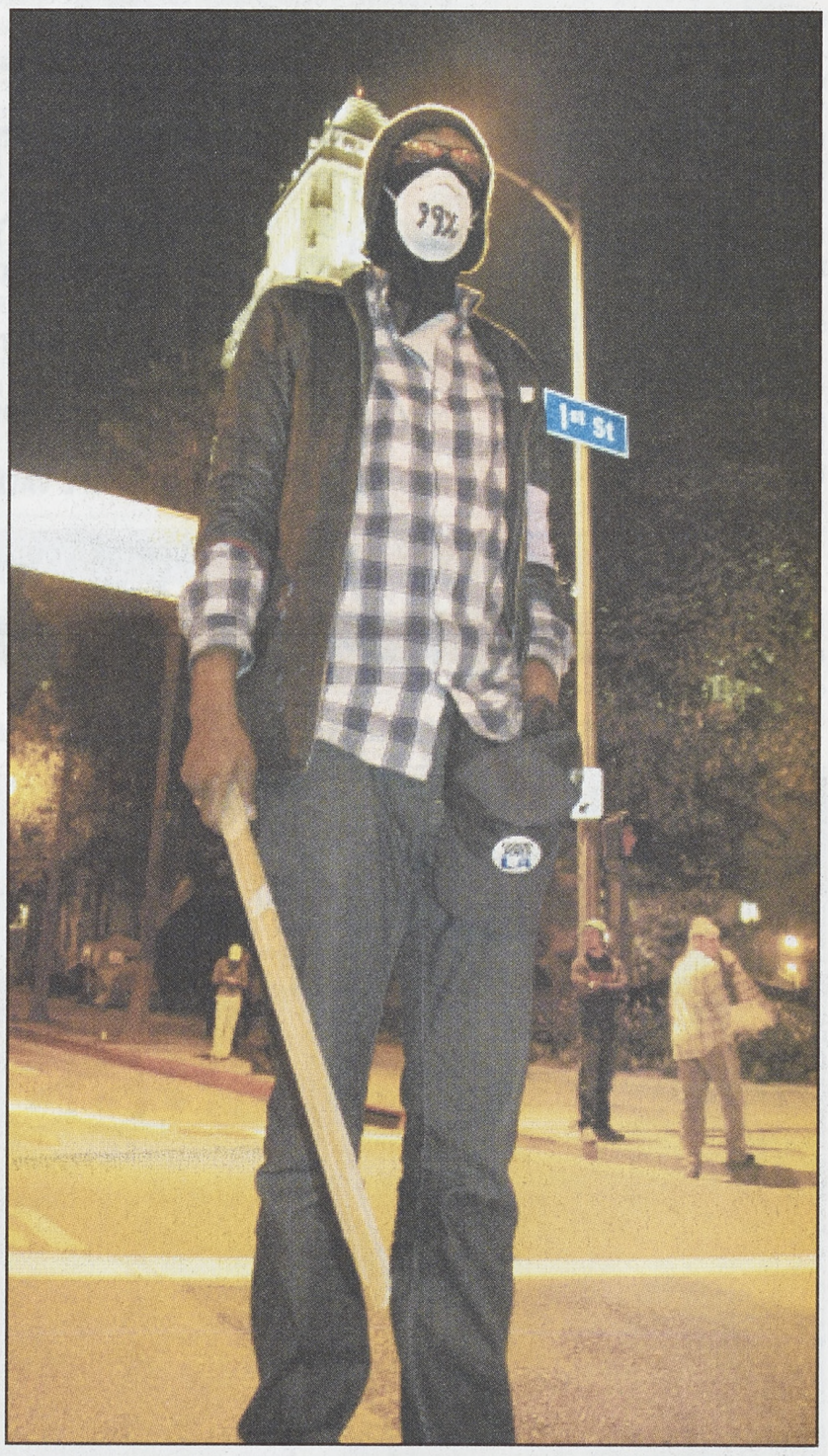
TODD ROSENBLATT & JORGE PEREZ
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Occupy L.A. protesters took the peaceful route in a two-month camp-out on the Los Angeles City Hall Park. The protest, in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street, demonstrates the unrest that the middle- and lower-class feel toward the economic recession.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck had set a deadline of Nov. 28 to have the protesters removed at 12:01 a.m.

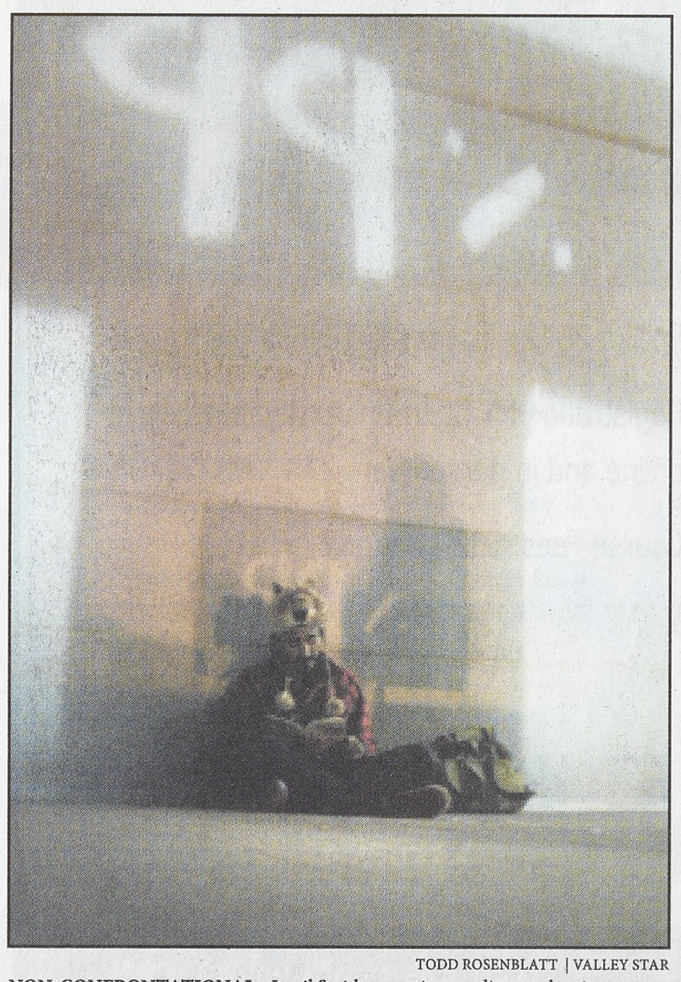
Some protesters packed their tents and belongings and headed home. However, most stayed in the park. The night was peaceful with only four arrests, a much different scene from Nov. 29 when approximately 1,400 officers shut down the encampment and made approximately 200 arrests. The protest, which has turned into a movement, did not end with the eviction from its base camp; protesters have marched in West Hollywood with The Metropolitan Community Church/Los Angeles' Social Justice Ministry and members of the LGBT community and continue to meet at Pershing Square in Downtown Los Angeles.

Protesters have made it clear that you can knock them down, but they will keep getting back up.



JORGE PEREZ | VALLEY STAR

99% READY - An annonymous protester is outfitted in urban riot gear as he prepares for the LAPD's descent on the L.A. City Hall Occupy L.A. camp on Tuesday night, Nov. 29.



TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

NON-CONFRONTATIONAL - Jamil Smith spent time reading on the piazza surrounding Los Angeles City Hall while participating in the Occupy L.A. protest.

TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

FLOODING THE STREETS - Protesters flood the intersection of E. 1st St. and Spring St. in front of Los Angeles City Hall the evening of Nov. 27 when they were originally supposed to be evicted from City Hall Park, stopping traffic and forcing LAPD officers to close down the streets surrounding City Hall. The evection actually took place in the early morning hours of Nov. 30.